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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
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INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KABUL 000410

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/25/2019
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [MARR](#) [MASS](#) [AF](#)
SUBJECT: NAD ALI DISTRICT UPDATE - STABILIZATION EFFORT
MOVING FORWARD BUT SHORTAGE OF ANA SLOWS EFFORT

Classified By: PRT Director Valerie Fowler for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

Summary

1. (C) Six weeks after ISAF and the Afghan Army liberated Nad Ali from enemy forces (EF), stabilization efforts are moving forward and many residents have returned to their homes. A District Administrator has been appointed and elders selected a District Council whose members received training under the Afghan Social Outreach Program (ASOP). The District Administrator and Council work closely with the PRT and have been fully engaged to help draft the district stabilization plan. A civilian stabilization officer coordinates development efforts from the Nad Ali District Center (DC) and is supported by a Military Stabilization Support Team, comprised of five civil affairs officers. EF remain active in the district and they have significant freedom of movement across the area. Additional Afghan Army units are needed to hold the gains made by ISAF and the Afghan security forces, and to allow the stabilization efforts to go forward.

Nad Ali Stabilization

2. (C) ISAF and Afghan forces completed the liberation of Nad Ali from EF at the end of December 2008. Within days Helmand Provincial Governor Mangal appointed a District Administrator and held an outreach Shura of 700 local residents in the Nad Ali DC. At the Shura, Mangal urged the local communities to support ISAF and the Afghan security forces to help protect their areas and keep out EF. He asked area elders to come forward and participate in the ASOP program to select a District Council and work with the PRT to develop a stabilization plan. Over 100 elders came forward and they selected 24 men to comprise the Nad Ali District Council. The council received initial instruction from the PRT governance advisor about their roles under ASOP and they began work immediately with PRT officers to develop a plan to get the bazaar, schools and community clinics open to encourage displaced residents to return home.

The Nad Ali Plan

3. (C) The Council emphasized that to get people back into Nad Ali the schools had to be repaired and the damaged Community Health Clinic (CHC) should be a priority. They asked that local contractors be employed and jobs for the reconstruction effort be generated for the local communities. The PRT made funds available and quickly engaged local construction firms to begin repairs on two schools. They

also started several small cash for work programs that fixed damaged road crossings, and this effort created jobs that helped bring families back into the area. The CHC was quickly renovated after being used by Afghan security forces and its staff said they now see 70-80 people a day. The PRT worked closely with the Provincial Director of Health to improve medical support for Nad Ali, and now medical supplies and other equipment have been delivered to the CHC. This effort to restore medical service received strong approval from the local community and was an early success for the PRT. The lack of qualified contractors in the immediate area is a challenge but local residents are pleased the reconstruction contracts are with Nad Ali companies.

EF Still Active - More ANA Needed

14. (C) The cooperative effort of the PRT and Nad Ali civilian and military leadership is producing positive results but EF retain freedom of movement and they are regularly challenging ISAF and Afghan security forces. EF are able to bring new fighters into the area and they seem to have a steady supply of munitions. The DC remains stable but areas in northern Nad Ali are strongly defended by EF and this has halted attempts to provide reconstruction support to residents in those areas. The Afghan Army units based in Nad Ali are working very well with ISAF but said they need additional units to control wider areas of the district. This view is supported by the District Administrator who said that without more Afghan Army units EF will continue to harass the population and will not allow the district to return to

KABUL 00000410 002 OF 002

normal. He noted that it should be the Afghan Army that pushes out EF from the district because only the Army is strong enough to defeat them and keep them out. Then the Afghan Police can be used to protect the district residents from the criminal elements. He concluded that the Afghan Army is well respected by local residents and their work to liberate Nad Ali should be supported by additional forces to defeat the EFs completely.

Comment

15. (C) Initial stabilization efforts will continue to move forward in Nad Ali and local support for reconstruction projects remains very strong; however, without additional support from the Afghan Army, affects could be localized by enemy forces. These enemy forces are determined to hold on to parts of Nad Ali, and the local residents and their leadership want an increased Afghan Army presence to clear the area permanently.

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